



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
New England District

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PRELIMINARY ALTERNATIVES & SCREENING CRITERIA

An important part of the review of the Cape Winds proposal to construct a wind power facility will be the alternatives analysis. For the purpose of providing a broad alternatives analysis as required by NEPA, the Corps has defined the project purpose as:

“a commercial scale renewable energy facility tying into the New England grid.”

During the preliminary screening, alternatives are being evaluated as to whether they can fulfill the project purpose. The list of alternatives being evaluated were developed based on the input received from the scoping hearings and the comment letters from the general public, interest groups and government agencies.

The EIR/EIS will include a comparison of natural gas, oil and coal fired power plants, both inland and coastal and an assessment of renewable technologies including solar, tidal, biomass, hydroelectric, wave and wind. The specific sites currently being screened for a renewable energy facility are:

Land-based alternatives:

Massachusetts Military Reservation,
Bourne, MA
Expansion of existing Searsburg, VT
wind facility
Hoosac wind site, MA (proposed by
others)
Expansion of existing Princeton, MA
wind facility
Skinner/Kibby townships, ME (site of a
previous proposal by others)
Redington Pond/Black Nubble
Mountain, ME (site of previous proposal
by others)
Vinalhaven Island/ coastal Maine site
Brownfield site at Naugatuck and
Housatonic Rivers, CT
Greenfield, MA landfill (previously
proposed by others)

Offshore alternatives

Nantucket Sound, MA
Nantucket Shoals, MA
Martha's Vineyard, south
Block Island, RI
Cape Ann, MA

These sites will be screened to determine which can be eliminated from further consideration due to factors that would make them infeasible for development. These screening factors are:

- Availability of renewable energy resource (i.e. Wind power class of 4 or better)
- ISO New England grid connection available (connection point, transmission/distribution lines, efficiency/capacity)
- Available land or water area
- Engineering constraints (“constructability”, geotechnical conditions, water depths)
- Legal/regulatory constraints (endangered species critical habitat, shipping channels).

The necessary data is being compiled and will be reviewed in the upcoming weeks by the Corps of Engineers and the cooperating agencies.

Once the preliminary sites have been screened, we will then proceed with more site specific analysis of the final sites.